

**S.C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION  
S.C. Department of Mental Health**

**Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital  
Highway 252  
Anderson, South Carolina 29622**

**August 1, 2013  
Center Presentation**

**Attendance:**

**Commission Members**

Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., Chair  
Jane B. Jones (excused)  
Everard O. Rutledge, PhD (excused)  
Sharon L. Wilson

Joan Moore, Vice Chair  
James Buxton Terry  
Beverly Cardwell

**Staff/Guests:**

John H. Magill  
Tina Jury

John Fletcher  
Dr. Fahd Zarrouf

Dr. Julius Earle  
Sidra Kahlon

Dr. Brian Mulroy  
Brian Musolf

The South Carolina Mental Health Commission met at Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital, Highway 252, Anderson, South Carolina, on Thursday, August 1, 2013. Alison Y. Evans, PsyD, Commission Chair, thanked John Fletcher and the staff of Harris Hospital for the hospitality shown to the Commission. Dr. Evans then turned the meeting over John Fletcher, Director of Harris Hospital.

Mr. Fletcher welcomed everyone to the meeting today. He said the last time the Commission was at Harris was in June 2010. Mr. Fletcher began with an update of the previous three years. At the 2010 meeting, there were guests from the Greenville Hospital System (GHS) who discussed the vision on the psychiatry residency program in the upstate. Dr. Bonner, in 2010, mentioned how the federal government is encouraging the expansion of medical schools and creation of new medical schools, in order to address the physician shortage in the upstate. Mr. Fletcher said that today there are two GHS medical students and the students from Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) who provide services at Harris Hospital.

Mr. Fletcher said he mentioned in 2010 the prospect of 47 employees of Harris who were able to retire. That did occur. Harris was able to replace 32 of those employees and 12 employees are now on the TERI Program. Recruitment and retention of staff remain priorities of the hospital

After the June 2010 meeting, the Upstate Coalition was developed, to include DMH, the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS), the Hospital Association and all the upstate hospitals. The Commission will receive an update on this today from Melanie Gambrell, Executive Director of Beckman Mental Health Center, and Kevin Hoyle, Executive Director of Anderson-Oconee-Pickens (AOP) Mental Health Center.

Mr. Fletcher said in 2010, Harris Hospital had 121 functional beds with seven psychiatrists, one family practitioner and three nurse practitioners. By September 2012, functional beds were reduced to 84, with only three psychiatrists, one family practitioner and three nurse practitioners. Functional beds are back up to 114 with the addition of the AnMed contract, telepsychiatry and new psychiatrists coming on board. Mr. Fletcher said that AnMed currently has four psychiatrists rotating through Harris Hospital. A further update will be provided on this effort.

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Mr. Fletcher introduced Tina Jury, Executive Vice President for Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at AnMed; and Dr. Fahd Zarrouf, Chief of Behavioral Health Services at AnMed. Ms. Jury said that the hospital has been working with Harris to try to address the influx of the patients to the AnMed system. She said that a meeting is held quarterly to collaborate on what can be done. Ms. Jury said that Dr. Pruett, the Interim Medical Director at Harris, is working to keep the census up. As mentioned previously by Mr. Fletcher, there are four psychiatrists from AnMed doing rotation at Harris caring for patients admitted from the four upstate hospitals. This is an innovative partnership aimed at improving access to Harris despite the challenge of psychiatrist staffing. The four upstate hospitals pay a stipend for the four physicians doing the rotation. She said that as a result of the collaboration, the wait time in the emergency room has been reduced, as well as the overall length of stay. This is a pilot program, but appears to be working very well. Ms. Jury said the overall working relationship between Harris and the upstate area hospitals has been wonderful.

Kevin Hoyle, Executive Director of AOP Mental Health Center, said that the Upstate Coalition is the springboard for what is being done currently in the upstate. While it hasn't resolved all the problems, it has gone a long way toward relieving the emergency room crisis. AOP is sharing physicians with Oconee Medical Center and Baptist Easley. They are doing proactive screening of individuals who may need admission, and to get people treatment as quickly as possible. Preliminary data from Oconee Medical, for the first six months, showed length of stay per person has been reduced by one-third, and waiting time has gone from seven days to five days. The number of patients presenting with a behavioral health problem has not decreased; however, only 12 percent are admitted to the hospital. The collaboration with Baptist Easley began on July 1. No data is available as yet from this hospital collaboration. Mr. Hoyle said that the outcomes are good and the collaboration has helped the people in crisis who we serve. Mr. Magill requested the data which Mr. Hoyle mentioned.

Melanie Gambrell, Executive Director of Beckman Mental Health Center, spoke on the collaboration with the Laurens Health Care System, which is now part of the Greenville Hospital System (GHS). Beckman has a full time mental health professional in the emergency department to help in transitioning clients either back to the community or into the hospital. There have been 50-80 contacts per year and this process has been working very well.

Dr. Julius Earle, Program Director of the Psychiatry Residency Program at Greenville Hospital System, spoke next. Dr. Earle said the vision of a four year Psychiatry Residency Program is nearly a reality. It currently includes residency training in all the upstate mental health centers and hospitals. At the present time, there are 50 residents; in one to two years, this should increase to 75. Residents provide services at Harris Hospital for three months. Starting next July, there will be one full time resident at Harris each quarter. It is everyone's hope to retain the psychiatric residents in the upstate after completion of their residency.

Dr. Brian Mulroy, Director of Osteopathic Medical Education at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM), is new to the Anderson area. He is on the faculty at VCOM in Spartanburg. Dr. Mulroy said that VCOM's mission is to prepare globally-minded, community-focused physicians for the rural and medically underserved areas of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and the Appalachian Region, and to improve human health especially of those most in need. VCOM is a non-profit, private 501C3 charitable organization initially funded by several foundations. The first class on the Virginia campus began in 2003, graduating in 2007; the first class on the Carolinas campus began in 2011, and will graduate in 2015. There are currently 63,000 fully licensed osteopathic physicians that practice the entire scope of modern medicine. More than 4,200 new osteopathic physicians enter the workforce each year. Today, more than 20 percent of medical students in the United States are training to be osteopathic physicians. VCOM Carolinas currently has ten medical students delivering services at Harris

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Hospital. These students work four week blocks, the first two of the four weeks are at Harris. Like Greenville Hospital System, VCOM hopes to retain the medical students in the upstate.

Mr. Fletcher distributed a copy of the Joint Commission letter granting re-accreditation to Harris Hospital, effective November 10, 2012.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the members of his staff who were present at today's meeting.

There being no further business or information, the center presentation concluded at 10:00 a.m.

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Alison Y. Evans, Psy., D., Chair

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Connie Mancari, Recording Secretary